



Idaho Crop & Livestock Producer News

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Idaho Field Office • PO Box 1699 • Boise, Idaho 83701

(800) 691-9987 • (208) 334-1507 • (208) 334-1114 FAX • www.nass.usda.gov



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Media Contact: Vince Matthews

July and October 2012 Farm Labor

Dear Respondent:

This issue of the Idaho Crop and Livestock Producers' News covers the results of the October Farm Labor Survey. Wage rates and number of hired workers were reported for the U.S., Region and selected States.

This release is sent to survey participants in appreciation for their time spent responding to the survey. For more information contact us at nass-id@nass.usda.gov or at 1-800-691-9987. Thank you for reporting and your continued support.

Sincerely,

Ralph V. Matthews

*Vince Matthews
Director*

For the Mountain I Region of the U.S. (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), there were 29,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of July 8-14, 2012. Hired workers worked an average of 48.5 hours during the survey week at an average wage of \$9.87 per hour. During the week of October 7-13, 2012, there were 30,000 hired workers on farms and ranches. Hired workers worked an average of 53.6 hours during the survey week at an average wage of \$10.17 per hour.

There were 906,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 8-14, 2012, up nearly 9 percent from a year ago. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 872,000 for the reference week of October 7-13, 2012, up more than 5 percent from the October 2011 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.36 per hour during the July 2012 reference week, up nearly 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.71 per hour, up more than 4 percent, while livestock workers earned \$10.89 per hour compared with \$10.29 a year ago. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.75 per hour, was up 47 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.4 for hired workers during the reference week, down a little over 2 percent from July 2011.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.76 per hour during the October 2012 reference week, up over 5 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.22 per hour, up over 6 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$10.83, up 16 cents. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.13 per hour, was up 56 cents from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.5 for hired workers during the October reference week.

A THANK YOU TO ALL IDAHO FARM AND RANCH OPERATORS

Your cooperation in completing agricultural surveys from this office is greatly **APPRECIATED**. Accurate, useful estimates are vital in decision making. All estimates derived from these surveys, along with other pertinent agricultural data, are published in our regular series of releases. All NASS reports re available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: www.nass.usda.gov. If you have any questions or require additional information, you may reach us toll free at 1-800-691-9987.